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## PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time: 04-20-15 @ 0900

Contact: Chief Deputy Stacy Brown

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## Mandatory Boating Safety Education Class Offered in Lewis County

Deputies from the Lewis County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a free Boating Safety Education class on Saturday, June 6th.

Anyone born after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1955 are now required to possess a valid boating safety card when operating a vessel with a 15 horsepower engine or greater. Mandatory Boating Safety Education became a reality for Washington boaters seven years ago.

The class is limited to the first 25 people to register. There is no fee for the class, however; Washington State charges \$10.00 to obtain your boating card after passing the test offered at the end of the class.

The class will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Lewis County Sheriff's Office Training Room, located on the first floor of the Law and Justice Center, 345 West Main Street in Chehalis. Lunch is not provided, however; there will be a lunch break during the class.

People born before January 1, 1955 are exempt from obtaining a boating education card.

To register for the class, call Lisa Arthur at (360) 740-2713. The class will be cancelled if there are less than five people signed up the week prior to the class.

While it is recommended boaters attend the formal class, vessel operators do have the option to take the safety education class online, for a fee. The test can be accessed at <a href="http://www.boat-ed.com/washington/index.html">http://www.boat-ed.com/washington/index.html</a>. Additional information on the program can be accessed on the Washington State Parks website.

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